

Please make the following amendments to the application:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **amend** claims 1 and 9 and **cancel** claims 10 and 11 without prejudice as shown in the Summary of the Claims, *infra*. Additions are underlined and deletions are struck through.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement; and

a reducing variable magnification unit for writing image data to the first-in, first-out memory after variable-magnification is carried out during image reduction,

wherein an enlarging variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of an enlarging-variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction or

a reducing variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of a reducing variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction,
and

wherein a write signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than a read signal therefor when the variable magnification processing is anduring enlargement, and the read signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than the write signal therefor when the variable magnification processing is aduring reduction.

Claims 2-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a line memory for storing one line worth of image data;

a plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and

a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing a number of the image forming means from which one line worth of image data is outputted by ~~for increasing and decreasing a~~ the number of ~~the turning-on~~ ~~times to turn on the switching means~~ by on/off-controlling the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio, wherein an enlarging variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of an enlarging variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction, or

a reducing variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of a reducing variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction and

wherein each of the plurality of output lines from the line memory output is connected in parallel to the plurality of image forming means.

Claims 10 and 11 (canceled).